

Measure Up

Fall 2010

Assessment news for eighth-grade teachers



Did you know?

- At grade 8 in 2011, NAEP will include assessments in mathematics, reading, science, and writing.
- Reading results for NAEP 2009 have been released.
- Results for the NAEP 2009 science assessment will be released later this academic year.

NAEP 2009: Reading Results

In 2009, a nationally representative sample of more than 178,000 fourth-graders participated in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in reading. Students responded to questions designed to measure their knowledge of reading comprehension across two types of texts: literary and informational. Results are reported for the nation, states, and select urban districts. The highlights below refer to all fourth-grade students nationally.

- At grade 8, the average reading score in 2009 was one point higher than in 2007 and four points higher than in 1992, but was not consistently higher than the assessment years in between.
- In 2009, about three-quarters (75 percent) of eighth-graders performed at or above the *Basic* level, and one-third (32 percent) performed at or above *Proficient*. Both percentages were higher than 2007 and 1992. (See figure on page 2.)
- Three percent of eighth-graders performed at the *Advanced* level in 2009, which was the same as the percentages in 2007 and 1992. (See figure on page 2.)
- Compared to 2007, there have been no significant changes in the racial/ethnic gaps, gender gaps, or gaps by type of school at grade 8.
- Average reading scores increased in nine states at grade 8.
- At grade 8, average scores were higher in 2009 than in both 2007 and 1992 for most racial/ethnic groups, male students, and public school students. There were no significant changes compared to either 2007 or 1992 for female students or private school students, and no significant change for Asian/Pacific Islander students compared to 1992.

For more information and to access an interactive version of The Nation's Report Card, visit <http://nationsreportcard.gov>.

Achievement Levels

Achievement levels are performance standards showing what students should know and be able to do. NAEP results are reported as percentages of students performing at or above *Basic* and *Proficient* levels and at the *Advanced* level. Based on recommendations from policymakers,

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NAEP ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

Basic denotes partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work at each grade.

Proficient represents solid academic performance. Students reaching this level have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter.

Advanced represents superior performance.

NAEP 2009: Reading Results

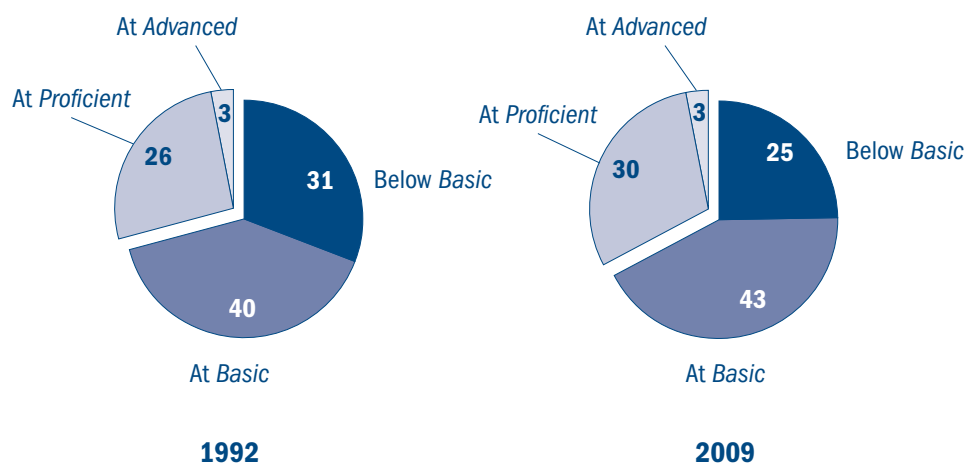
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educators, and members of the general public, the National Assessment Governing Board sets the achievement levels for each subject area and grade. Eighth-

graders at the *Proficient* level were likely to be able to recognize an interpretation of the author's point in a persuasive essay, or interpret lines of a poem to explain the speaker's perspective.

Achievement Levels, Grade 8, All Students

The percentage of eighth-graders in the nation performing at or above *Proficient* in reading increased from 29 percent in 1992 to 32 percent in 2009.



NOTE Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

In addition to assessing subject-area achievement, NAEP collects information that provides a context for reporting student performance. The following three types of questionnaires are used:

- student questionnaires collect information on students' demographic characteristics, classroom experiences, and educational support;
- teacher questionnaires gather data on teacher training, and instructional practices; and

- school questionnaires gather information on school policies and characteristics.

When developing the questionnaires, NAEP ensures that the questions do not infringe on respondents' privacy, are grounded in educational research, and can provide information relevant to the subject being assessed.

Students complete the questionnaires voluntarily, their responses are kept confidential, and their names are never reported.

NAEP 2011: National Indian Education Study (NIES)

The National Indian Education Study (NIES) describes the condition of education for American Indian and Alaska Native students in the United States. NIES was initially conducted in 2005, then again in 2007 and 2009. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), on behalf of the Office of Indian Education, within the U.S. Department of Education, will conduct the study again in 2011.

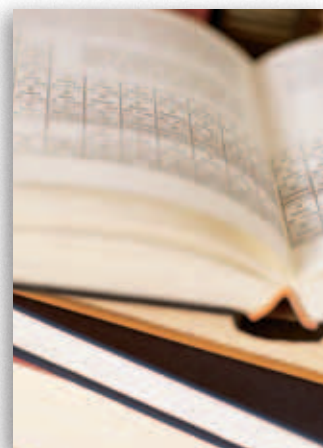
NIES is a two-part study designed to assist policymakers and educators in making informed decisions as they work to improve the educational experiences of all American Indian and Alaska Native students in the United States. The results from NIES have already been used in congressional testimony and serve as a benchmark for measuring the effectiveness of existing programs.

Part I of the NIES provides in-depth information on the academic performance of fourth- and eighth-grade American Indian and Alaska Native students on NAEP in mathematics and reading. Part II of the study is conducted through a survey to explore the educational experiences of the fourth- and eighth-grade American Indian and Alaska Native students who participated in the NAEP assessments. The survey focuses on the integration of native language and culture into school and classroom activities.

All of the survey questions are multiple-choice, but a space is provided at the end of the survey for respondents to write in comments. The student survey takes about 10–15 minutes to complete; the teacher and principal surveys take about 20–25 minutes to complete.

Throughout the questionnaires, the role of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) culture in students' lives and school experiences is explored. The teacher questionnaire collects information about teachers' educational experiences and instructional practices as they relate to the education of AI/AN students. Teachers who teach reading and/or mathematics to one or more students selected for the study are asked to complete this questionnaire. The principal questionnaire collects information about school factors related to the education of AI/AN students. The questionnaire is completed by the principal or head administrator of the school with AI/AN students selected for the study.

Links to the survey questionnaires that were used for the NIES 2009 can be found on the NCES website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nies/questionnaire.asp>.



For more information about NIES, please visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nies>.

Highlights from NIES 2009

- **AI/AN students report varying levels of knowledge and exposure to AI/AN culture.**
- **Sixty-six percent of eighth-graders reported having some or a lot of knowledge about their AI/AN history.**

What is The Nation's Report Card?

The Nation's Report Card informs the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. Report cards communicate the findings of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the largest continuing and nationally representative measure of achievement in various subjects over time.

Since 1969, NAEP assessments have been conducted periodically in mathematics, reading, science, writing and other subjects. By collecting and reporting information on student performance at the national, state, and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only information related to academic achievement and relevant variables is collected. The privacy of individual students and their families is protected, and the identities of participating schools are not released.

This publication was prepared for the National Assessment of Educational Progress by Westat under contract (ED-07-CO-0083) to the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

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If you want to...

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View NAEP data for a particular state or contact your NAEP State Coordinator	The National Center for Education Statistics at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states
Access specific results for a grade level, subject, jurisdiction, and/or demographic groups	The NAEP Data Explorer at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata
Find information regarding the types of questions used on NAEP assessments or view subject-specific questions	The NAEP Questions Tool at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx
Download a Sample Questions booklet that contains sample test questions for the upcoming and previous assessments	The National Center for Education Statistics at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp
Learn more about NAEP frameworks and how policy is drafted for each NAEP assessment	The National Center for Education Statistics at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/frameworks.asp
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